

PAUL ALEXANDER JOHNSTON

Paul Alexander Johnston is a highly successful businessman who has given freely of himself and of his substance to the public service. Born in Smithfield, Mr. Johnston received bachelor's and law degrees from this University. As the academic leader of his Law School class he was editor-in-chief of the North Carolina Law Review. After a short period as an associate in a New York law firm, he joined the staff of the Institute of Government here, where his principal work was to assist the first North Carolina Commission on Reorganization of State Government.

Governor Luther Hodges chose Mr. Johnston as his administrative assistant, later named him the first Director of the State Department of Administration, and, when he became Secretary of Commerce, took Mr. Johnston along as his executive assistant. Mr. Johnston joined the Martin Marietta Corporation in 1961 and rose to a vice presidency. He was President of the Glen Alden Corporation from 1965 to 1972. He now serves as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of his own company, Johnston Industries, Inc., and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Whitehead and Kales, Inc., of Detroit.

Mr. Johnston was co-chairman for several years of the National Board of Directors of the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity. He has been a benefactor of his church and of this University. He was the principal contributor to the Luther H. Hodges Professorship in the School of Business Administration; he endowed the Henry Brandis Professorship in the Law School, the Albert Coates Professorship in the Institute of Government, and the Paul A. Johnston Fund for the College of Arts and Sciences. He is a member of the Board of Visitors of the University and is Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Business Foundation. Paul Johnston, with the constant support of his wife, Margaret, has worked to strengthen this University, and the University now, with this Award, honors this illustrious alumnus.

JULIA CHERRY SPRUILL

Julia Cherry Spruill, like many women of distinction, has served well in multiple roles. In this setting, most important is her outstanding work as a pioneer in the field of women's social history. Born in Edgecombe County, she earned her Master's degree in History at this Institution. She taught in Chapel Hill High School, was a staff member of the Institute for Research in Social Science at the University here with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, and later she lectured here in Social Science.

Mrs. Spruill's fine work, Women's Life and Work in the Southern Colonies, published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1938, was the fruit of ten years of painstaking archival research done here, at Harvard University, at the Library of Congress, and in various state and local archives. It is the fate of most works of history to enjoy only a brief moment in the sun, but Mrs. Spruill's work, reprinted in 1968 and issued in paperback in 1972, has steadily grown in its influence. A distinguished Professor of History at Harvard University this year described the volume as "one of the earliest, and still best, books on women's history in America." Mrs. Spruill has served as Vice President of the Historical Society of North Carolina and of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society.

In recent decades Mrs. Spruill has given her time to women's organizations and other community groups. She has been President of the University Women's Club and Vice President of the Chapel Hill branch of the American Association of University Women. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of her church. With this Award, the University expresses its pride in the work of this alumna as a distinguished historian and as role model for aspiring young women.

GUY OWEN

Guy Owen is at once a distinguished novelist and poet, publisher as well as publicist for the literary arts, and patron of many an aspiring young writer. Born in Clarkton, he earned his A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at this Institution. He taught at Davidson and Elon Colleges, at Stetson University, and at North Carolina State University, where he is presently Alumni Distinguished Professor of English.

Professor Owen is a superb teacher and speaker who manages to be folksy and popular as he deals with intellectual themes. His writings also combine excellence and popular appeal. He has written or edited several books of poetry; more than sixty of his short stories have appeared in various books and periodicals, and he has published four novels, one of which, Journey for Joedel, was a serious contender for a Pulitzer Prize. His best known work, doubtless, is The Ballad of the Flim-Flam Man, which was made into a movie. There is now a well-crafted sequel.

A most significant aspect of Professor Owen's work has been his encouragement of young writers, especially during his service as editor and publisher for more than a decade of the Southern Poetry Review. Energetically and effectively he has advocated and encouraged creative writing in panels, literary programs, contests, and workshops in North Carolina and throughout the South. Many honors have come to Professor Owen; among them are The Henry Bellamann Foundation Literary Award, 1964, The Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry, 1969, The Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, 1970, and the North Carolina Award for Literature, 1972. As a talented member of a fine Department who has worked indefatigably in the interests of excellence, Guy Owen has earned the praise of his Alma Mater.

COMER VANN WOODWARD

Comer Vann Woodward is by general agreement the premier historian of the South in the United States today. Born in Arkansas, he attended Emory and Columbia Universities before coming to this Institution for his Ph.D. He taught at Georgia Tech, the Universities of Florida and Virginia, Scripps College, and The Johns Hopkins University before going to Yale University as ^{0/}Stirling Professor of History.

Professor Woodward is best known through his books. These have been profoundly influential, not only because they display the insights of a mature scholar who writes with the touch of a fine stylist but also because they deal sensitively with live issues that continue profoundly to influence affairs in the world of 1980. Among his outstanding books are Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel, 1938, Origins of the New South (1877-1913), 1951, which won the Bancroft Prize the following year, Reunion and Reaction, 1951, The Strange Career of Jim Crow, 1955, The Burden of Southern History, 1960, and American Counterpoint, 1971.

Vann Woodward came to specialize in History only by indirection. As an undergraduate, so it is reported, he "took a stab at history and found it boring." His interest in the life and career of Tom Watson led him into the field, and he has done much to enliven it for others. Among the numerous honors that have come to him are the Harmsworth Professorship of American History at Oxford University, the National Institute of Arts and Letters Literary Award, the Presidencies of the Southern Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association, and membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This University honored him with a Doctor of Laws degree in 1959; he has since received many similar awards. For his continued outstanding and significant work, Vann Woodward richly deserves this further Award.

EDWIN MILTON YODER, JR.,

Edwin Milton Yoder, Jr., Editorial Page Editor of The Washington Star, has earned a lofty reputation through his editorials and speeches as a constructive, incisive, and thoughtful critic of government and society. Born in Greensboro, he grew up in Mebane. At the University here in Chapel Hill he was co-editor of The Daily Tar Heel and a member of the Order of the Golden Fleece. He won Phi Beta Kappa and also the coveted Rhodes Scholarship for North Carolina. He took a degree at Oxford University.

Mr. Yoder began his newspaper career as a reporter for The Charlotte News, but soon moved into editorial work. He went to The Greensboro Daily News and quickly rose to become Associate Editor and Editorial Page Editor. A career in the academic world attracted him, and he taught history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for a year. The field of Journalism lured him back, however, and in 1975 he went to The Washington Star to assume his present position.

Numerous awards have come to Mr. Yoder, several of them from the North Carolina Press Association. He was the winner of the Grenville Clark Award for editorial writing on international affairs. In 1979 he received the Pulitzer Prize. In his editorials, in his articles in leading periodicals, he has written with literary brilliance, reflecting always the perspectives, judiciousness, and responsibility of the scholarly observer. He would not, to be sure, lay claim to invincibility. His Greensboro friends still twit him occasionally about the "Louisa May Allcott Award" which they once gave him in jest after he attributed to her the authorship of Uncle Tom's Cabin. But Ed Yoder has maintained the highest standards in the written as well as the spoken word, and this University is proud to present him this Award.